

AAPS PharmSci: An Advanced Publication Forum Has Matured

Wolfgang Sadec, Editor-In-Chief

I am very pleased to announce that *AAPS PharmSci* has matured to become a highly sophisticated and advanced publication medium. Four years ago we launched a new journal in the pharmaceutical sciences that appeared only in electronic form. We reasoned that this surely will be the way of the future, and everyone will readily adopt this format. More importantly, we thought that a young generation of scientists highly versed in the capabilities provided by the Web would adapt novel strategies for disseminating their work in an information-rich environment. Today, nobody will doubt the underlying assumptions, but reality has a way of differing from expectation. We have yet to see a surge of papers that take advantage of the vast capabilities of Web-based publishing. Many reasons may contribute to this phenomenon, not the least a general reluctance to try out a new venue that has yet to prove its mettle with promotion committees and granting agencies. On the other hand, the complexities of e-publishing are numerous. To be sure, it is relatively easy to put up a manuscript in HTML, accessible on the Web. However, we were much more ambitious, wanting to create a publication derived from a searchable database of dynamic XML-tagged data, archived in perpetuity, rather than unstructured files. Being a trailblazer has its disadvantages—the journey in exciting, but it can take time to find the right path. It has taken four years to reach a deeper understanding of all relevant aspects of Web publishing. Now is the time to take advantage of *AAPS PharmSci*—a unique medium for presenting and preserving your work.

I am sure you have noticed the significant changes that have occurred to both *AAPS PharmSci* (www.aapspharmsci.org) and *AAPS PharmSciTech* (www.aapspharmscitech.org). AAPS staff has worked diligently to create a first class, technically advanced publication, easily accessible from your workstation.

AAPS PharmSci Highlights

AAPS PharmSci is peer-reviewed, indexed by MedLine/PubMed, ISI Journal Citation Index, Chemical Abstracts, and others, and remains freely accessible. These are unique attributes indeed.

Topical Coverage: *AAPS PharmSci* continues to cover all aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences, with emphasis on emerging topics, usually with multiple interdigitating disciplines. Because the journal is an electronic-only publication, we are seeking papers that take advantage of multimedia Web display.

A request to all AAPS members:

- **Submit Papers!!** Encourage your collaborators and colleagues to submit their work to *AAPS PharmSci*. Point out the ease of dissemination of papers published in *AAPS PharmSci* (free public access), and the fact that all article abstracts are printed in the *AAPS Newsmagazine*, which is read by all AAPS members. The refereeing process has been streamlined and continues to improve. Overall, accepted papers have an excellent chance in getting published faster than occurs in comparable journals—and in some cases much faster.
- **Theme Issues Variety.** Newly emerging topics and disciplines are published as theme issues (See http://www.aapspharmsci.org/theme_issues/theme_issues.asp). I encourage researchers to become Guest Editors for one or more of these topical publications. Please send your ideas to me for review. Guest Editors serve in the same capacity as an *AAPS PharmSci* Editor. The same rigorous review process is followed. With final approval by the Editor-in-Chief, an important issue can be published quickly. All theme issue articles also appear as regular articles in *AAPS PharmSci*. AAPS Section and Focus Group will find this publication option attractive because it can provide a forum for annual, updatable publications of interest to their members and accessible directly from their respective Web home pages. Workshops and symposia can also result in a theme issue. This is often preferable to a printed monograph because of the savings in production time and cost.
- **Special Features Articles.** Submissions that incorporate e-format features and interactive programs, e.g., simulations and databases, are welcome. Acceptance and display in *AAPS PharmSci* will give

your database publication credit. For example, microarray data can be incorporated and described in an accompanying article. Publication of array data is fast becoming a requirement in many journals. Consult the Special Features section of *AAPS PharmSci* for examples.

AAPS has put substantial resources into generating this outstanding publication forum. With your help it can flourish and enhance the pharmaceutical sciences literature without having deleterious effects on existing journals in this area. I count on your assistance to take advantage of *AAPS PharmSci*.